US Power Company, concerning kick-backs in the proposed Gandhar Power Project in Gujarat to be set up by Siemens, Gujarat Power Corporation and Torrent Exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Commercial Production in NTPC, Farakka

2149. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the original date of commissioning and commercial production for unit IV and V of NTPC of Farakka;

(b) what is the actual date of commercial production from Unit IV and V, the reasons for the delay in commencing commercial production and the agency responsible for the same; and

(c) whether coal firing of Unit IV is going to commenced in December, 1994 and whether the trial operation of Unit V is also to be resumed in December, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The schedule for commissioning of Unit IV (500 MW) and Unit V (500 MW) of Farakka super thermal power project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively. The commercial operation should start within a period of 180 days from the date of synchronisation.

(b) Unit IV is expected to commence commercial generation in December, 1995 and Unit V in March, 1995. The reasons for delay in commencing commercial generation of these units, which were beyond the control of NTPC, are as follows:—

(i) Collapse of Pass 'D' of the Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP of Unit-IV.

(ii) Industrial relation problems coupled with poor progress of works by the civil contractor and delays in supplies.

(iii) Technical problems faced in the equipment, such as vibration in the Turbine Generator and temperature excursion in the superheater of boiler of Unit-IV.

(c) The coal firing of Unit IV was achieved in April, 1993. However, after collapse of Pass 'D' of ESP in January, 1994, the trial operation of Unit IV with coal with 3 passes of ESP is expected to commence in January, 1995. The trial operation of Unit V is expected in December, 1994.

Conditionalities by Private Investors in Power Sector

2150. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private investors in the power sector have sought changes in the enactments like Electricity Supply Act, Indian Electricity Act, Companies Act and Income Tax Act to overcome restrictions like compulsory sale of power to the State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The present policy allows direct sale of power by the private companies, after obtaining necessary permissions.

(b) Does not arise.

Power Grid Projects with World Bank's Assistance

2151. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects of Power Grid have been set up with World Bank's assistance at some places in the country during the year 1994;

(b) if so, give their locations, State and Union territory-wise, alongwith advantages of these projects;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some more similar projects with World Bank/Asian Development Bank's assistance during 1995; and

(d) if so, the details thereof: and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Powergrid is implementing the Northern Region Transmission Project, Talcher-I Transmission System, Farakka Stage-II Transmission system and Powergrid System Development Project with the World Bank assistance during 1994. While Farakka Stage-II Transmission system is likely to be completed in 1994, execution of the other projects will continue in subsequent years.